

Patent Claims

1.-10. Canceled

11. (New) A method for reducing damage caused by an accident after a primary accident of a vehicle,  
comprising the steps of  
detecting the primary accident,  
sensing and analyzing the ambience field of the vehicle,  
detecting the motional behavior of the vehicle,  
comparing the analyzed vehicle ambience with the motional behavior of the vehicle and  
determining an intervention into at least one member of the group consisting of brakes and steering system of the vehicle, depending on the result of the comparison.
12. (New) The method as claimed in claim 11,  
wherein the primary accident is detected by means of at least one member of the group consisting of acceleration sensors (27) of a driving dynamics control system, airbag-acceleration sensors, an airbag activating system, and a seatbelt constraint activating system.
13. (New) The method as claimed in claim 11,  
wherein the vehicle ambience is sensed by means of at least one sensing device out of the group consisting of radar sensors, infrared sensors, and a camera (42 to 47), and the position and dimensions of objects in the vehicle ambience are determined in a unit (28).
14. (New) The method as claimed in claim 11,  
wherein the motional behavior of the vehicle is determined by vehicle sensors (22 to 25, 26, 27, 29).
15. (New) The method as claimed in claim 11,  
wherein the trajectory and the speed of the vehicle representing the

motional behavior are compared with the position and the distance of objects in the vehicle trajectory representing the vehicle ambience.

16. (New) The method as claimed in claim 11,  
further comprising the step of indicating an imminent intervention on a display element and canceling the intervention if the driver actuates an actuating element.
17. (New) The method as claimed in claim 16,  
wherein the intervention is carried out automatically after a predetermined time interval.
18. (New) The method as claimed in any one of claim 11,  
comprising the step of automatically triggering optical signal transmitters of the vehicle.
19. (New) A device for reducing damage caused by an accident after a primary accident,  
the device comprising  
detection units (28.1) for detecting the primary accident,  
sensing units (42 to 47, 28.3) for sensing and analyzing the ambience of the vehicle,  
detection units (15, 16, 20, 21, 26, 29, 28.3) for detecting the motional behavior of the vehicle,  
a unit (28.4) for comparing the analyzed vehicle ambience with the motional behavior of the vehicle and for determining an intervention into at least one member of the group consisting of brakes (30 to 33) and a steering system (41).
20. (New) The device as claimed in claim 19,  
further comprising an actuating element (61) enabling the driver to stop the intervention into the brakes (30 to 33) and/or into the steering system (41).